

NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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DATE: October 22, 2019

CONTACT: Stacy Rowe

SUBJECT: Incidental take notice for Jackson County

MADISON – A Northern Natural Gas Company pipe abandonment project may result in the "incidental taking" of a rare turtle under a permit the Department of Natural Resources proposes to issue for the project. Incidental take refers to the unintentional loss of individual endangered or threatened animals or plants that does not put the overall population of the species at risk.

Northern Natural Gas Company is proposing to abandon approximately 6.75 miles of 6-inch-diameter pipe to eliminate several shallow segments of the pipeline in Jackson County. Within the overall project area, one stream crossing has been determined to have potential to impact wood turtles.

The presence of the state threatened wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) has been confirmed in the vicinity of the project site. DNR staff determined that the proposed project may result in the incidental taking of some turtles.

The Department has concluded that the proposed project is not likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival or recovery of the species within the state, the whole plant-animal community of which it is a part or the habitat that is critical to its existence.

The conservation measures to minimize the adverse effect on the threatened species will be incorporated into the proposed Incidental Take Permit. Copies of the jeopardy assessment and background information on the wood turtle are available by searching the DNR website for [incidental take public notice](#) or upon request from Stacy Rowe (608-266-7012 or stacy.rowe@wi.gov). The department is requesting comments from the public through November 21, 2019 regarding project-related impacts to the wood turtle. Public comments should be sent to Stacy Rowe, WDNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 or stacy.rowe@wi.gov.